

TWO NEW INTRODUCED SPECIES IN THE ALASKAN FLORA

Jason R. Grant

Department of Botany, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland
29742-5815 U.S.A.

ABSTRACT

Two taxa previously unreported from Alaska have been found in the Fairbanks area. These are *Conyza canadensis* (L.) Cronquist and *Sonchus uliginosus* Bieb.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, *Conyza*, *Sonchus*, Alaska

Weedy species are often overlooked in the field. In Alaska, collectors tend to focus on the native arctic flora giving little attention to disturbed areas with introductions from more southerly regions of North America.

With the development in Alaska during the last 50 years, invasive plants common in the U.S. Pacific Northwest and the north central plains areas of Canada and the contiguous United States, have been introduced into the most intensely developed areas. The pioneer seeds are probably carried by way of vehicles traveling the Alaska Highway from the Yukon Territories, British Columbia, and Alberta in Canada, and Washington and Montana in the United States into the interior of Alaska. From there they may be spread further south along the Parks, Richardson, and Glenallen Highways toward the Anchorage metropolitan area.

The other possible means by which these introductions may be appearing is the increase in agricultural establishments in the Fairbanks, Big Delta, and Matanuska Valley regions. Within the grain and vegetable crops raised in these areas, there are most certainly seeds of weedy taxa which themselves are capable of producing seeds able to survive the long winter. These may then spread to roadsides and other disturbed areas.

Recent studies of disturbed areas in the Fairbanks area have led to the discovery of two species previously unrecorded in Alaska. Two members of the Asteraceae, *Conyza canadensis* (L.) Cronquist and *Sonchus uliginosus* Bieb. are new introductions to the state.

Conyza canadensis (L.) Cronquist

SPECIMEN EXAMINED: UNITED STATES. Alaska: Fairbanks Quad., Fairbanks, Eton Blvd., 64° 54' N, 147° 42' W, 214 m, 22 August 1990, *Grant 90-01273* (ALA).

Conyza canadensis, a native of North America has become a semicosmopolitan weed. For this reason it is not too surprising to see it arriving in Alaska.

Sonchus uliginosus Bieb.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED: UNITED STATES. Alaska: Fairbanks Quad., Fairbanks. Corner of Taku Rd. and Farmers Loop Rd. near the University of Alaska campus, 64° 51' 30" N, 147° 49' 20" W, 24 August 1988. *Grant 88-200* (ALA); Corner of Taku Rd. and Farmers Loop Rd. near the University of Alaska campus, 64° 51' 30" N, 147° 49' 20" W, 22 August 1990, *Grant 90-01281* (ALA,US); corner of Lathrop Rd. and Mitchell Expressway, 64° 50' N, 147° 43' W, 22 August 1990, *Grant 90-01291* (ALA,US); Corner of S. Cushman and Van Horn Rd., 64° 50' N, 147° 43' W, 22 August 1990, *Grant 90-01292* (ALA,US).

Sonchus uliginosus has been naturalized throughout the northeastern United States from Europe and is moving westward and northward with continued development.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank Tass Kelso, James L. Reveal, and James R. Rundell for review of the manuscript; and Al Batten for providing correct latitude and longitude coordinates.